

Subject: >PRESS RELEASE RE WOODSIDE<

Date: Tue, 29 Oct 2002 12:36:25 +0000

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**>ROM IN COMA AFTER<
>ATTEMPTED MURDER<**

**BODY DUMPED AT CARAVAN
PARK ON EVE OF EVICTION**

A protest rally will take place on Friday morning (1 Nov) at >WOODSIDE< following the attempted murder of a 22-year-old father of two whose unconscious body was dumped at the gate of the caravan park earlier this week.

The 250 residents have been told to quit the site by 1 November. But the families are refusing to move - partly out of fear.

"They are trying to scare us off," said Janie Codona, "resident and Gypsy Council committee member. "But with racial attacks like this we would be in even more danger if we were to leave here."

The young Traveller is believed to have been clubbed and beaten by several assailants. He was then apparently tied and dragged behind a vehicle before being dumped outside >Woodside< in the early hours of Monday morning.

Bedford CID are treating the attack as attempted murder. Police officers are on guard at the hospital.

The Gypsy Council has maintained a mobile office at >Woodside< in recent weeks. Residents at the Hatch Road site, near Sandy, have been assisted in registering as homeless in the hope of obtaining alternative accommodation.

Lawyers are considering seeking a Judicial Review and stay of the injunction allowing Mid Beds Council to clear the site on 1 November. There is compelling evidence that the local council misled the High Court when seeking the removal order.

"They claimed Woodside is on a flood plain - and that's why a permit was refused," said Cliff Codona. "I have a map and a survey proving this is not true."

The stand at Woodside was not just for the residents, said Mr Codona. "We are all getting behind the Traveller Law Reform Bill - we pin our hopes on new legislation."

Supporters of Woodside are coming from as far away as Scotland. Groups are expected from Cambridge, Leicester, Derby and Essex, as well as Bedfordshire. Many will be accommodated in a "tent-city" erected at Hatch.